



*Christmas*

at St Giles

*Christmas* brings us a message of hope

*Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

We are living in times where fears have been heightened and we are holding on to fragile hopes. Do we dare get our hopes up? Will we be disappointed? How long do I have to wait and can I bear it?

Yet human beings cannot live without hope. The hopes and longings of our hearts are an echo of the deep yearning we all have for acceptance, love, reassurance, peace and certainty about the future.

We can bring **our hopes and fears** to Jesus because He is **the Light of the world**. He has come to bring hope, comfort and joy. God is with us!

Inside, you will find details of how we will **celebrate** this good news, how we can **share the love** with others and how we can **share the joy** this Christmas.

*For more details, please check our website and ChurchSuite.*



# *God is with us*

## Services at St Giles

FROM 6TH DEC SERVICES MAY ALSO BE HELD  
IN CHURCH SUBJECT TO CURRENT GUIDELINES

Sunday 29th November

10am and 7pm GOD IS WITH US

Sunday 6th December

10am JESUS IS THE PROMISED MESSIAH

3pm A SERVICE OF HEALING AND HOPE

8pm CAROLS WITH COMPASSION UK

Sunday 13th December

10am JESUS IS HEALER

Sunday 20th December

10am JESUS IS SAVIOUR

4pm and 7pm LESSONS AND CAROLS

## *Christmas Eve*

3pm IT BEGINS IN BETHLEHEM (FAMILIES)

5pm 'BE BORN IN ME' (ADULTS)

11.30pm WORSHIP AT HOME: MIDNIGHT MASS WITH  
THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY AND THE BISHOP OF DOVER

## *Christmas Day*

10am JESUS IS WITH US (ON ZOOM AND ONLINE)





# Love Christmas

Sharing a million Christmas Boxes of hope and love

Thousands of churches are coming together this Christmas to spread a powerful message of love, hope and kindness to people who are struggling this winter. Love Christmas will let people know that we stand with them and for them during this difficult time.

By getting involved you will be helping to spread the message of the love of Jesus to individuals and families here in Northampton.

There are three ideas below giving you an opportunity to bless someone else. Buy a gift, make a cake, write a card. Just imagine you are choosing and putting together a box for a friend or loved one. **Do it with love** so we can remind others that God is with us and He loves and cares for us.

1 We would welcome contributions for **Eve, Baby Basics** and the **Food Bank**. As you think about your own shopping and gift giving, please consider donating to any or all of these this Christmas.

2 We also want to bless our **precious seniors** and those who are housebound and to let them know they are not forgotten. You can contribute a knitted nativity figure, a Christmas cake or a Christmas message of love and hope.

3 And finally we encourage everyone to keep their eyes and ears open to needs in their own streets or places of work. This time of year can be especially heart breaking for those who are alone or in financial difficulties. What better time to show love to your neighbour with a little box of love that lets them know that you care.

*We are offering a central collection point for gifts and donations at St Giles Parish Centre, St Giles Terrace, NN1 2BN.*

**Tel: 01604 628623.**

**SEE OVERLEAF FOR MORE DETAILS**

## Eve – Women's refuge

We would like to make up 10 packs comprising a toiletries set and toy. Items to contribute:

**Toiletries** eg gift sets, hand/foot cream, body cream, shower gel  
**New toys for pre-schoolers especially boys** – could also be books, crayons or colouring books.

**Gift vouchers** ie One for All vouchers which can be used in multiple shops. In values of £5 or £10 please.

## Baby Basics

We are seeking especially to *bless the mums* who receive the Moses baskets:

**Nice toiletries** eg hand/foot cream, body cream, shower gel.

**Boxes of chocolates**

**Practical women's post baby needs** eg breast pads, nipple cream, maternity pads.

**Food bank** - click on this link for a shopping list:

<https://www.restorenorthampton.org.uk/food-bank.html>

## Our seniors or housebound contacts

Can you help with any of the following

**Knitted nativity figure** – please contact the office for the pattern.

**Individual Christmas cakes** – please contact the office for recipe.

**Christmas card** greetings from St. Giles – a chance to make a more personal contact.

**Christmas Elves** – [click here](#) to sign up on ChurchSuite if you can help to deliver these gifts. To be collected from the church centre on **Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th**.

## Drop off point and times

All items must be new and unwrapped and dropped off at the Church Centre. Please note deadlines below:

**Thursday 10th Dec** for Eve.

**Sunday 13th** for Baby Basics, Food bank and our seniors.

The Church Centre opening times:

Mon-Fri 10am-3pm

Sunday (13th) 10am-3pm

*Thank you!*





# Share the Joy

## Christmas Extravaganza!

**December 13<sup>th</sup> at 4pm**  
Shepherds, Angels, Wise (or not so wise) Men, a very nasty Herod....

This year in the comfort of your own home enjoy the unwrapping of the Christmas story as you've never seen it before!

Recorded on zoom with actors drawn from across the St Giles family and written by one of our members, it is not to be missed! Interspersed with classic carols, grab a hot chocolate and a mince pie and enjoy.

## Carols on the doorstep.

On **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December** from 6-7 pm BBC Radio Northampton are broadcasting carols and encouraging people to step 'outside the box' to sing 'Carols on the Doorstep.' All you need is a doorstep (distant from other houses), a radio and neighbours!

The link below contains flyers and posters for you to send round to your community. [Click here](#) to download the song sheet and print off for those who won't be able to access it otherwise.

<https://www.doorstepcarols.co.uk/>

## Zoosoom into Zone and get creative!

Let your imagination run wild and get creative!

**Thursday 3rd, 10th and 17th Dec** at 7pm. Suitable for school years 6-13.

More info on ChurchSuite. Contact Beth to book your place!

[beth@stgilesnorthampton.org.uk](mailto:beth@stgilesnorthampton.org.uk)

## Family Advent Fun

Come along and have some family fun! Christmas activity sessions on Zoom on Sunday afternoon on **29th Nov, 6th and 20th Dec** at 3.30pm. Suitable for primary school aged children.

More info on ChurchSuite or contact Jo.

[jo@stgilesnorthampton.org.uk](mailto:jo@stgilesnorthampton.org.uk)